

would be created "if an individual advocated the violent overthrow of the Government of the United States and intended to carry out that objective." If the Secretary, after further investigation, including perhaps a name check of FBI files, concludes that the nominee should be disqualified on the basis of loyalty, he must inform the nominee of the adverse information "to the extent consistent with the interests of national security." He must also give the nominee an opportunity to comment on the information. Thus it is no longer possible to blacklist a scientist for security reasons without informing him of the fact.

► After a candidate has been appointed to a committee, HEW's Office of Internal Security will conduct a name check of FBI and Civil Service files. If that check turns up information reflecting on the person's loyalty or suitability, he will be given an opportunity to challenge the adverse information before action is taken to terminate his appointment. HEW officials say the postappointment name check is routine throughout the government and is regarded as mandatory by the Civil Service Commission under existing executive orders.

► The new procedures depart in one particularly significant aspect from those previously announced by Finch. There is no requirement that individuals sign an affidavit attesting to their loyalty before they are appointed. HEW officials said the loyalty oath was dropped after a brief trial because lawyers could not concoct an oath that would not be subject to objection.

Some figures prominent in the fight to end the blacklisting were cautiously optimistic last week that the new procedures constitute a major step forward. Daniel M. Singer, an attorney representing the American Orthopsychiatric Association, the scientific group which was most vociferous in attacking HEW's blacklisting practices, told *Science* that the procedures seem to represent "a major change for the better." Singer would not comment in detail since he had not yet seen a copy of the new procedures, but based on information supplied by this reporter, Singer said the procedures "on balance represent an advance—especially if they are administered in the spirit of the thing by people of goodwill." Singer said the significance of postponing the name check until after appointment is that a man is not apt to be removed for petty reasons once he is appointed, whereas

NEWS IN BRIEF

● **MORE STUDENT SELF-GOVERNMENT:** A survey of the 101 major member institutions of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) reveals that students are being involved in an unprecedented fashion in university governance and policy-making. Students are serving on all types of policy, advisory, screening, and, in some cases, curriculum committees, and they often hold equal representation with faculty members. The survey also shows that 21 NASULGC institutions have let students onto their university or faculty senates, and 12 have student members on their boards of trustees. Efforts to increase communication among students, faculty, and staff include establishment of the office of ombudsman to hear and investigate student complaints. According to NASULGC, the new half-student, half-faculty senate at the University of New Hampshire may be responsible for the university remaining open during last May's nationwide campus strikes.

● **AIR BILL PASSES SENATE:** Senator Edmund Muskie's (D-Maine) tough new antipollution bill, the National Air Quality Standards Act of 1970, last week passed the Senate, 73 to 0. The most controversial part of the bill, fought by automobile manufacturers, requires a 90 percent reduction in contaminating engine emissions by 1975. The Senate beat back softening amendments by Senators Robert Dole (D-Kans.) and Edward J. Gurney (D-Fla.). The bill also requires newly constructed power plants to use the latest pollution control technology and sets new clean air standards for the states. The bill now goes into conference with the House, which last June passed a less stringent version containing no new auto emission standards.

● **OIL SPILLS:** Oil spills cause heavy damage to the marine food cycle and may pose a danger to public health, according to two Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution scientists. Max Blumer and Howard L. Sanders, testifying recently before the House Subcommittee on Conservation and Natural Resources, said that an oil spill off West Falmouth, Mass., in September 1969 has had these effects: pollution now covers at least 5000 acres offshore

and 500 acres of marshes and tidal rivers; seabed plants and most varieties of animals were killed and the affected areas were not repopulated; and cancer-causing chemicals that are present in oil have been picked up by the remaining animals, which include fish and shellfish normally eaten by humans.

● **NATURE TO BE PUBLISHED THRICE WEEKLY:** *Nature*, Britain's 101-year old science weekly, will be published in three separate issues each week, starting in January, according to an announcement in the 19 September issue. The new *Nature* will appear Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The Monday and Wednesday issues will be heavily weighted with original research. The Friday issue will contain, in addition to research papers, discussions of articles presented in the midweek issues. It will also present a wider range of news of interest to scientists and non-specialists than space has heretofore permitted. Current subscription holders will receive the weekend edition, which will be sold at the present subscription price of \$48 a year (air cargo) in the United States. The cost of the Monday and Wednesday issues has not been announced.

● **BIOLOGISTS CONGREGATE:** The First National Biological Congress, sponsored jointly by the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), will be held 6 to 10 November in Detroit. The primary purpose of the congress is to inform the public, and the theme this year is "Man and Environment." With the exception of the morning meetings, which will be devoted to basic science presentations, the sessions are planned to give nonscientists a picture of developments in ecology, disease, pollution, nutrition, population control, and the uses of chemicals in drugs and food production. Evening sessions, open to the public without charge, will feature panel discussions where various public officials will exchange views on health and environmental issues. The registration fee for participation in the congress is \$20. Additional information may be obtained from AIBS Meetings Department, 3900 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20016.